

The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITION IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Quick Summary

USAID's Annual Civil Society Meeting on Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity (APCCA) was last held on Wednesday (12/16). The meeting included updates and progress on APCCA and engagement with civil society. Some key take-aways:

- Transformation: APCCA will sit in the Bureau for Development, Democracy and Innovation (DDI) under the Youth and Inclusive Development Hub. This internal restructuring is intended to increase coordination, improve feedback and learning and improve consistency of USAID support. This Bureau will also house the Center for Education which is currently the E3 Bureau.
- DDI Senior Advisors include:
 - Kathy Guernsey, Agency Disability Rights Coordinator
 - Luis-Felipe Duchicela, Senior Advisor for Indigenous Peoples' Issues
 - Anthony Cotton, LGBTI Senior Advisor
 - Mike McCabe, Agency Senior Advisor on Youth
 - Paul Bolton, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Coordinator
- Over the Horizon: USAID conducted a strategic review to realign current missions to meet the need of medium to high impacts of COVID-19. Civil Society organizations have been actively involved in framing the recommendations stemming from this review.
- Next steps include the creation of country action plans for U.S missions (by January 2021) and the establishment of a strategic foresight unit in Washington, DC.

Alliance To End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) submitted a [letter](#) to USAID requesting a postponement of [Countering Trafficking in Persons \(C-TIP\)](#) policy rewrite to allow for more stakeholder engagement and adequate public commenting period.

Virtual Events

[SAVE THE DATE:](#)
 INTERACTION'S FORUM
 2.1 CONNECTING THE
 COMMUNITY. FORGING
 THE FUTURE **MARCH 23-
 24, 2021**

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[SAVE THE DATE:](#) AAP
 VIRTUAL ADVOCACY
 CONFERENCE AND
 CAPITOL HILL VISITS
APRIL 11-13, 2021.
 REGISTRATION OPENS IN
 JAN. 2021

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[SAVE THE DATE:](#) GCE'S
 GLOBAL ACTION WEEK
 FOR EDUCATION (GAWE)
 SET TO BE **APRIL 26TH-
 30TH, 2021**

Increased Urgency to Assess Global Learning Status of Children

As a new pandemic reality sets in, education stakeholders are sounding an urgent call for data. COVID-19 forced many nationwide and local lockdowns causing the suspension of schools all over the globe. [UNICEF](#), in August, reported around 1.5 billion schoolchildren affected by school closures at the height of the pandemic. Once the shift to remote learning occurred, [UNICEF](#) reported that at least 463 million children whose schools were closed due to COVID-19 did not have access to remote learning. The effects of school closures on children's education is largely unknown, leading many child education advocates to warn that yet another crisis is forthcoming.

The Better Education Coalition, along with other education advocates, proposed the Global Learning Loss Assessment Act 2020 ([H.R. 8220](#)). The bipartisan, bicameral bill aims to improve the quality and reach of international education assistance by collecting data on learning loss, current educational gaps to access, and needed support to increase effectiveness of education programs during and post COVID-19. The bill requires:

"The U.S Agency for International Development (USAID) to report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on learning and global basic education programs. Such report will include:

- the assessment of the global learning loss that will result from protracted school closures
- evaluations of the effectiveness, cost, accessibility, and reach of the most commonly used forms of distance learning in low-resource contexts
- a description of the tools and resources needed for the USAID to support continued distance learning, safe school reopening, remedial and accelerated learning, and re-enrollment campaigns"

[H. R. 8220](#) bill was introduced in the House by Representatives Chrissy Houlahan (D-Pa), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa) and Mike Quigley (D-IL) and its Senate companion bill [S. 4548](#) was introduced by Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Senator John Boozman (R-AR). Both House and Senate bills sit in their respective Foreign affairs committees. The intent was to attach the bill to another COVID-19 related relief package; however, due to the slow movement on a comprehensive COVID-19 relief package, proponents are preparing to reintroduce the bill to the 117th Congress. This reintroduced bill is currently undergoing some edits which adds the encouragement of USAID to enter in to pilot projects that seek to expand digital access and expand telecommunications within education.

Many child advocates support the Global Learning Loss Assessment Act including Global Campaign for Education (GCE)- US, Save the Children, World Vision, InterAction, UNICEF USA and World Learning.

Resources and Articles



Commissioned by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Women's Refugee Commission (WRC) and John Hopkins University (JHU) Center for Humanitarian Health studied the connection between child marriage and emergency contexts.

The report highlights the context specific nature of conflict-related displacement and its associated risk factors on child marriage and calls for practitioners to focus on addressing or researching effective child marriage delay strategies.